GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:926
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016
Mobile Towers in Rural Areas
Sampath Shri Anirudhan

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note that there is unrest among public due to absence of mobile towers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in rural areas ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide mobile facility in above mentioned places;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for delay in installing mobile towers in rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reported it has not received any specific case of unrest among public due to absence of its mobile towers in rural areas. However, it has received requests for providing mobile towers in rural areas of Gujarat, Jharkhand, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir and Maharashtra Telecom Circles. BSNL installs mobile towers in various areas including rural areas based on its techno-economical considerations.

In addition, various Schemes are being implemented/ planned with financial support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for expansion of mobile services in rural and remote areas. Details of such schemes are as follows:

â€¢ USOF is implementing a comprehensive telecom developing plan for the North East Region (NER) at the estimated cost of Rs.5336.18 crores. This NER scheme has following components:
(i) Provision of mobile services in uncovered villages.
(ii) Provision of seamless mobile coverage along the National Highways.
(iii) Augmentation of Transmission media.
â€¢ USOF is augmenting the telecom network in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.
â€¢ To provide better mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, USOF has awarded to BSNL to install 2199 (BTSs).

â€¢ USOF has planned to cover about 55,669 villages in the country that do not have mobile coverage. Mobile coverage to balance uncovered villages has been planned to be provided in a phased manner, subject to availability of financial resources.

(e) BSNL is facing some problems causing delay in installation of mobile towers in rural areas. Some of them are as follows:

â€¢ Non-availability of power supply from State Electricity Organisation.
â€¢ Delay in getting permission of mobile tower installation from local authorities.
â€¢ Delay in site acquisition.
â€¢ Few areas are presently techno-commercial non-feasible.

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